

Duala language

Duala (also spelt **Douala**, **Diwala**, **Dwela**, **Dualla** and **Dwala**) is a dialect cluster spoken by the Duala and Mungo peoples of Cameroon. Douala belongs to the Bantu language family, in a subgroup called Sawabantu. Maho (2009) treats Douala as a cluster of five languages: Douala proper, Bodiman, Oli (Ewodi, Wuri), Pongo and Mongo. He also notes a Douala-based pidgin named *Jo*.

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Popular culture

The song "Soul Makossa", as well as pop songs that repeated its lyrics, internationally popularised the Duala word for "(I) dance", "makossa".^[5] The song Alane by artist Wes Madiko is sung in Duala and reached #1 position in at least 10 European countries.

Dictionaries

1. E. Dinkelacker, *Wörterbuch der Duala-Sprache*, Hamburg, 1914.

2. Paul Helmlinger, *Dictionnaire duala-français, suivi d'un lexique français-duala*. (<https://web.archive.org/web/20150402104427/http://www.ddl.ish-lyon.cnrs.fr/projets/clhass/PageWeb/ressources/duala.pdf>) Editions Klincksieck, Paris, 1972.

3. Johannes Ittmann, edited by E. Kähler-Meyer, *Wörterbuch der Duala-Sprache, Dictionnaire de la langue duala, Dictionary of the Duala Language*, Dietrich Reimer, Berlin, 1976. The preface evaluates ref. 1 above as terse, but good, while ref. 2 has missing and erroneous tone marks.

References

1. Douala (<https://www.ethnologue.com/18/language/dua/>) at *Ethnologue* (18th ed., 2015)

Douala	
Native to	Cameroon
Ethnicity	Douala, Mungo
Native speakers	(87,700 cited 1982) ^[1] <div>Most speakers live in Douala, the biggest city of Cameroon, which has since grown more than four times as big.</div>
Language family	<div>Niger–Congo <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Atlantic–Congo<ul style="list-style-type: none">Volta-Congo<ul style="list-style-type: none">Benue–Congo<ul style="list-style-type: none">Bantoid<ul style="list-style-type: none">Southern Bantoid<ul style="list-style-type: none">Bantu(Zone A)<ul style="list-style-type: none">Sawabantu<ul style="list-style-type: none">Douala</div>
Dialects	<div>Duala proper</div> <div>Bodiman</div> <div>Oli (Ewodi, Wuri)</div> <div>Pongo</div> <div>Mongo (Muungo)</div>
Language codes	
ISO 639-2	dua (https://www.loc.gov/standards/iso639-2/php/langcodes_name.php?code_ID=120)
ISO 639-3	dua
Glottolog	dual1243 (http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/dual1243) Duala ^[2] <div>olib1234 (http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/olib1234)</div>

2. Hammarström, Harald; Forkel, Robert; Haspelmath, Martin, eds. (2017). "Duala" (<http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/dual1243>). *Glottolog 3.0*. Jena, Germany: Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History.
3. Hammarström, Harald; Forkel, Robert; Haspelmath, Martin, eds. (2017). "Oli-Bidiman" (<http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/olib1234>). *Glottolog 3.0*. Jena, Germany: Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History.
4. Jouni Filip Maho, 2009. *New Updated Guthrie List Online* (<https://web.archive.org/web/20180203191542/http://goto.glocalnet.net/mahopapers/nuglonline.pdf>)
5. "TRANS Nr. 13: George Echu (Yaounde): Multilingualism as a Resource: the Lexical Appropriation of Cameroon Indigenous Languages by English and French" (<http://www.inst.at/trans/13Nr/echu13.htm>). *Inst.at*. Retrieved 2017-07-06.

	lottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/olib1234) Oli-Bidiman ^[3]
Guthrie code	A. 24–26 ^[4]

Jo	
Native to	Cameroon
Region	around Douala
Native speakers	<i>None</i>
Language family	Douala-based pidgin
Language codes	
ISO 639-3	<i>None</i> (mis)
Glottolog	<i>None</i>
Guthrie code	A. 20A ^[4]

External links

- [Duala alphabet](https://www.omniglot.com/writing/duala.php) (<https://www.omniglot.com/writing/duala.php>), Omniglot
- [DUALA SUN : language and culture](http://www.studentsoftheworld.info/sites/divers/584.php) (<http://www.studentsoftheworld.info/sites/divers/584.php>)
- [Ya Jokwa Duala](https://web.archive.org/web/20140619122858/http://duala.kazeo.com/lexique-duala/lexique-duala,r84555.html) (<https://web.archive.org/web/20140619122858/http://duala.kazeo.com/lexique-duala/lexique-duala,r84555.html>) (short dictionary of the French – Duala)
- [la langue Duala](http://philippe.litou.free.fr/duala/langue_duala.htm) (http://philippe.litou.free.fr/duala/langue_duala.htm)
- [Wiktionnaire, français – duala lemmas](#)
- [Map of Duala language from the LL-Map project](https://web.archive.org/web/20121005120624/http://llmap.org/languages/dua.html) (<https://web.archive.org/web/20121005120624/http://llmap.org/languages/dua.html>)
- [Christian films in Douala](https://www.jesusfilm.org/film-and-media/watch-the-film) (<https://www.jesusfilm.org/film-and-media/watch-the-film>) (video)
- [Portail Douala-douala](https://web.archive.org/web/20090509190430/http://fr.dooh.org/) (<https://web.archive.org/web/20090509190430/http://fr.dooh.org/>)
- [Résurrection des langues minoritaires](https://www.resulam.com) (<https://www.resulam.com>)
- [Alphabet camerounais](https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.resulam.lalphabam_new&hl=en) (https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.resulam.lalphabam_new&hl=en)

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